



United Telephone Association, Inc. • United Communications Association, Inc.

March 7, 2014

Ms. Marlene Dortch  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Expression of Interest Letter – WC Docket 10-90, Connect America Fund

Dear Ms. Dortch,

This letter is submitted to Express Interest in participating in the Rural Broadband Experiments. United Telephone Association, Inc (United) is an incumbent Rate of Return local exchange carrier ("RoR LEC") providing voice and broadband services to rural consumers for over 60 years in rural Kansas with an average density of approximately 10 customers per square mile. This track record proves that United has the experience and dedication to rural consumers needed to successfully deploy broadband in unserved areas. United also operates a wireless subsidiary, United Wireless Communications, Inc. that provides wireless service over a 19 county territory in Southwest Kansas that also provides broadband using fixed LTE service.

Broadband networks, particularly high-speed broadband networks, are expensive to build and cost recovery typically requires multiple years in rural high-cost areas and United is very interested in partnering with the FCC to conduct experiments to find creative ways of deploying high-speed, scalable, IP-based networks in rural high-cost areas. In particular, United recognizes the need for service to be available to local schools, hospitals and other anchor institutions to ensure rural economic development and opportunity for all Americans. To that end, United will take all steps necessary to ensure our experiments maximize accessibility for all anchor institutions in the proposed areas. The details of our potential experiment may be found below.

#### ***Location of Potential Experiments***

United is interested in providing service to eligible locations in Census Tracts within 14 counties in Southwest Kansas. According to the FCC's release of potentially eligible Tracts, there are 1,132 eligible locations within the Tracts covering these counties. The counties included in this proposal are: Clark, Comanche, Edwards, Finney, Ford, Grant, Gray, Haskell, Hodgeman, Kearney, Kiowa, Meade, Pawnee and Seward.

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Census Tract Number	# of High Cost Locations	# of Extreme H.C. Locations
20025967100	3	3
20033967600	15	14
20047969600	225	120
20055960100	148	81
20055960200	1	0
20055960600	2	0
20057961600	15	12
20057961700	53	33
20067963600	11	11
20069962600	3	3
20069962700	1	1
20081463100	28	18
20083461100	16	15
20093959100	7	7
20097969100	14	14
20119966600	67	46
20119966700	1	1
20145970200	112	19
20145970300	289	215
20175965600	121	57

### ***Broadband Technology***

Based on the funding level available, United would use a combination of fiber and fixed LTE service to deploy a robust broadband capable network in the afore mentioned census Tracts.

### ***Service Offerings***

The IP Network described above would be capable of supporting voice, high-speed broadband of at least 4Mbps downstream and 1Mbps upstream up to 50 Mbps downstream and 15 mbps upstream. The exact price of these services will still need to be determined, however, they will likely be similar to United's current offerings to our existing customers.

### ***State or local government Participation or Partnerships***

United does not anticipate partnering with any State or local government in this endeavor. However, if opportunities present themselves during the process, such partnerships will be evaluated.

***Necessary Funding***

United estimates that this experiment will require approximately \$875,000 to construct the required facilities. Accordingly, the Company would require this amount in one time funding or some combination of initial funding and ongoing support that would cover the cost of the additional investment in this area.

United thanks the FCC for the opportunity to participate in this process. Any questions about this letter of interest should be directed to me at the contact information shown below.

Sincerely,



Todd Houseman

Assistant General Manager

United Telephone Association, Inc.

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